

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00231 211848Z
ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0231

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, WB, TW, GE, US, FR
SUBJECT: BERLIN VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD
JANUARY 19-20

REF: USBERLIN 0123

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER LOUIS DE
GUIRINGAUD DEPARTED WEST BERLIN EVENING JANUARY 20
AFTER ONE-DAY VISIT. THIS WAS FIRST TIME A FRENCH FOREIGN
MINISTER HAD COME OFFICIALLY TO BERLIN IN MORE THAN 30
YEARS. AMONG HIGHLIGHTS OF STAY WAS SPEECH BEFORE BERLI
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN WHICH GUIRINGAUD AFFIRMED
DESIRABILITY OF WEST BERLIN PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY. GUIRINGAUD STATED FRENCH COMMITMENT TO BERLIN
IN CLEAR, FORCEFUL TERMS. " BERLIN CAN COUNT UPON FRANCE," HE SAID AT
CONCLUSION OF HIS SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

2. GUIRINGAUD'S SCHEDULE IN BERLIN INCLUDED MUCH-
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PAGE 02 USBERL 00231 211848Z

PHOTOGRAPHED STOP AT BERLIN ALL, OBSERVANCE
OF FRENCH MILITARY HONOR CEREMONY, LOOK AT NEARBY
TEGEL AIRPORT IN FRENCH SECTOR, AND CITY TOUR. HE
HAD BRIEF PRIVATE TALK WITH GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS
SCHUETZ BEFORE ADDRESSING SPECIAL SESSION OF HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES. AT SENAT-SPONSORED LUNCH
WHICH FOLLOWED, GUIRINGAUD HELD DISCUSSION WITH

FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. TOPIC, ACCORDING TO FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, WAS " EUROPEAN QUESTIONS AND THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE NEAR EAST" (TO WHICH BOTH FONMINS WILL SOON BE TRAVELLING). ON EVENING OF 20TH, GUIRINGAUD MET INFORMALLY WITH PRESS AND GAVE RETURN RECEPTION AT FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S BERLIN RESIDENCE BEFORE FLYING BACK TO PARIS.

3. IN SPEECH BEFORE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, GUIRINGAUD DECLARED THAT FRENCH WOULD " FULLY AND COMPLETELY STAND BY ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXERCISE WITH DECISIVENESS ITS RIGHTS IN THE INTEREST OF BERLIN AND ITS POPULATION". ON SUBJECT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, HE CALLED BERLIN SITUATION A DECISIVE CRITERION FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE, AND ADDED THAT THE CITY MUST MANAGE TO PROFIT FULLY AND COMPLETELY FROM RESULTS OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE. THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, HE EMPHASIZED, DID NOT CHANGE ANYTHING IN THE FUNDAMENTAL STATUS OF BERLIN, AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO NOR HAS IT SOLVED THE BERLIN PROBLEM. HE CITED AS NOTABLE BENEFITS OF QA THE RISING NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAVELLIN UNHINDERED BETWEEN FRG AND WEST BERLIN, AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS OF ALL TYPES BETWEEN WEST BERLIN, EAST BERLIN, AND THE GDR. THE MAYOR OF BERLIN, WOLFGANG LUEDER, AND BERLIN SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS DIEDRICH STOBBE REMARKED TO US POLAD ABOUT GUIRINGAUD'S ECHO OF THE QA IN SPEECH WHEN HE SAID THAT THE TIES BE-
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PAGE 03 USBERL 00231 211848Z

TWEEN WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AND FRG HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED. GUIRINGAUD ADDED THAT THE ALSO KNEW THAT IN THE EYES OF BERLINTERS TIES TO THE FRG COULD NEVER BE CLOSE ENOUGH, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR REGRET ABOUT RESTRICTIONS WHICH THREE ALLIES HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN FORCED TO IMPOSE, FOR EXAMPLE, ON VOTING RIGHTS FOR BERLINERS. GUIRINGAUD EMPHASIZED THAT FRENCH EXPECTED BERLIN TO CONTRIBUTE ITS " CAPACITY , ENERGY AND RESOURCES" TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WITH WHICH IT IS AND WOULD BE CONNECTED THROUGH THE FRG, IN SO FAR AS THIS IS IN ACCORD WITH RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALLIES.

4. IN INFORMAL MEETING WITH PRESS LATER ON 20TH, GUIRINGAUD CALLED RECENT RECENT STEPS OF GDR VIS-A-VIS STATUS OF EAST BERLIN " RATHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF VALID AGREEMENTS" NOT IN HARMONY WITH SPIRIT OF DETENTE. SOVIET UNION, HE CONTINUED, WAS CO-

RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN GREATER BERLIN. FOR THE REST, FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS STRICTLY OPPOSED TO TAKING UP FOUR-POWER NEGOTIATIONS ON BERLIN AGAIN.

5. VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN WEST BERLIN PRESS. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN CONSERVATIVE SPRINGER NEWSPAPER BERLINER MORGENPOST WAS SLIGHTLY NEGATIVE, NOTING GUIRINGAUD GOT NO OVATIONS FOR HIS VISIT, AND SEEMED UNACCUSTOMED TO WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY, BUT MORGENPOST FOUND MERIT IN HIS PRAISE OF BERLIN AS IMPORTANT CULTURAL CENTER. INDEPENDENT TAGESSIEGEL EMPHASIZED GOOD TIMING OF HIS VISIT, AT A MOMENT WHEN SOVIET UNION APPEARED TO PLACING QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT INTO QUESTION, COMMENTING THAT FRENCH INTENTION TO RESIST SHIFT OF BALANCE OF POWER OVER BERLIN NOW
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PAGE 04 USBERL 00231 211848Z

BEING ATTEMPTED BY SOVIET UNION WAS UNDERSCORED BY GUIRINGAUD'S PRESENCE. AT SAME TIME TAGESSPIEGEL INTERPRETED HIS COMMENTS AS WARNING TO GERMANS NOT TO STRAIN SOVIET UNION'S CONCURRENCE IN QA. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF 21 JANUARY, THE GDR DAILY PARTY NEWSPAPER, REPEATED L'HUMANITE ARTICLE WHICH CRITICIZED GUIRINGAUD'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN BERLIN AS COMPROMISE OF FRENCH RIGHTS IN WEST BERLIN. IN CONCLUSION, VISIT WAS RESOUNDING AND WELCOME RESTATEMENT OF FRENCH COMMITMENT TO CITY.
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